

To: Pierard, Kevin[pierard.kevin@epa.gov]; Bauer, Candice[bauer.candice@epa.gov]
Cc: Wester, Barbara[wester.barbara@epa.gov]
From: McKim, Krista
Sent: Thur 10/27/2016 4:07:40 PM
Subject: FW: Please save the Menominee River
Miningletter.docx

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From: McCree, Barbara **On Behalf Of** R5Hotline
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2016 11:04 AM
To: McKim, Krista
Cc: DeLeon, Jose
Subject: FW: Please save the Menominee River

Krista

Would you please respond to this complaint?

Thank you.

Barbara McCree

Multimedia Communications

From: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2016 8:40 PM
To: R5Hotline <R5Hotline@epa.gov>
Subject: Please save the Menominee River

Dear EPA,

This is a grave matter concerning Wisconsin that needs federal intervention. We implore you to protect the people of Wisconsin and Michigan from the will of a handful of people.

The same government entity responsible for the Flint Water Crisis is again turning its back on public health and safety in the interest of profits. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has approved many of the permits necessary to locate an open pit gold and zinc mine on the banks of the Menominee River, the river that forms the border between Michigan and Wisconsin. It's called the Back Forty Project.

As you know, open pit sulfide mining poses a significant danger to the public health and the environment through water, air and noise pollution.

The pit would be 83 acres large, and 750 feet deep, and located less than 150 feet from a river that empties into Lake Michigan. It would be located less than a third of a mile from an aging dam, built in 1927. Ore would be processed on site using cyanide leaching. The use of cyanide in mining is illegal in Wisconsin because of the danger it

poses. Michigan will be exposing a Wisconsin river to this environmental threat. Vast amounts of rock would be newly exposed to air and water, creating acid rain. The rock would continue to leach potentially toxic heavy metals into the groundwater and river for generations to come.

The mine will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. An open pit mine operated in this manner creates unhealthy particulates in the air and strong odors that can make breathing difficult and poses the danger of asthma and lung cancer to the many people and animals living nearby.

In addition, in the northwoods especially, most people have never experienced the large-scale industrial noise and vibration this mine will create. It could be critically disruptive to human health, affecting sleep, concentration and mental health.

The Menominee River is a bass fishing destination and a critical spawning ground for one of the largest lake sturgeon populations in the Lake Michigan basin. The river flows into the bay of Green Bay, which is part of Lake Michigan, the second largest Great Lake, which provides fresh drinking water to tens of millions of people.

The Menominee River is part of the creation story for the Menominee Tribe of Indians, and the tribe has come out strongly against the mine for both cultural and environmental reasons. The tribe has promised lawsuits to protect those rights.

Public hearings have attracted hundreds of people opposed to the mine, and scant few in favor. Still, the Michigan DEQ is turning a blind eye to the people's will, lured instead by the promise of 150 jobs and millions in tax revenue for the state.

We feel it's a short-sighted, and potentially dangerous to allow a mine in this location. The potential gain from mining - a short-term profit for a handful of people - is not worth the risk of catastrophic consequences to the region and its people for generations to come.

There has to be a way to learn the lessons of the past, by protecting our water, our public health, and the environment from the will of a greedy few.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do everything you can to protect this valuable Wisconsin resource. We've included the letter that was sent to the DEQ, further detailing the reasons this mine is too dangerous to approve.

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